GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1786
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2002
EXPORT OF GROWTH RATE
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate any measures to arrest the existing falling export growth rate of the country and have taken any progressive steps to accelerate the growth rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are envisaging to diversify the products and markets to overcome the recessionary trends prevailing in US and Japan;

(d) if so, the measures mooted to achieve, the said diversification and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures / steps being implemented to increase the productivity of the exportable agricultural products so as to maintain consistency in the export policy and to build an image of a reliable supplier in the international market?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b) : Exports of merchandise goods during the current financial year (April-September 2002-03) has actuallywitnessed a growth rate of 13.49% which is more than the target of 12% fixed for the current year.

However, export promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, various initiatives have been taken during the last one year. The EXIM Policyfor 2002-07 has also incorporated a number of measures to proactively promote exports. New initiatives have been taken like launching the scheme of Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development for Exports, strengthening of Market Access Initiative, additional features and facilities for Special Economic Zones; etc.

(c) & (d) : Yes sir. The Government is taking measures on an on-going basis for diversifying the products and markets which inter alia include Government level interaction through Joint commissions/Committees; participation in various specialized fairs and exhibitions/buyer - seller meets, etc. Besides `Focus Latin American Countries`(LAC) which was launched earlier,`Focus Africa` Programme was also launched by the Government in 2002 to enhance India`s trade with Sub-Saharan African region.

Besides these, the Medium Term Export Strategy (MTES)was announced this year which has identified 220 Focus Products and 25 Focus Markets to achieve 1% share in world exports by 2006-07.

(e) : The measures taken to increase the productivity of the exportable agricultural products and to build an image of a reliable supplier in the international market inter alia include establishing Agri Export Zones, permitting free export of almost all agricultural products, providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for good quality planting material, improving packaging, dissemination of market information, assistance for setting up laboratories for testing of products, etc.